

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, October 17, 2005
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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on October 14, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, October 14, 2005

**Statement on Congressional Action
on Homeland Security Legislation**

October 7, 2005

I applaud the Congress for its work on the homeland security legislation. The resources provided by this bill will help us protect our borders, upgrade explosives detection technology in our airports, address radiological and nuclear threats, and target security funding to areas with the greatest need. The legislation will help make our homeland more secure.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7941—Fire Prevention
Week, 2005**

October 7, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Each year, fires kill or injure thousands of Americans and destroy or damage billions of dollars worth of property. Many of these fires might have been prevented by taking appropriate precautions and following safety guidelines. During Fire Prevention Week, we highlight the need to prevent and prepare for fires, and we raise awareness of fire safety. We also honor our Nation's brave firefighters.

Each year, the National Fire Protection Association and the Department of Homeland Security's United States Fire Administration raise awareness during Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Use Candles with Care." Although the number of home fires has declined in recent years, the number of fires caused by candles has risen dramatically. Fortunately, the risk of candle fires can be lessened by following a few basic guidelines, including never leaving candles

unattended, keeping them away from flammable items, and always keeping them out of reach of children.

While many fires can be prevented by following precautions, families should still be prepared for the possibility of a fire by having working smoke alarms on every level of their homes. Families should also have a fire escape plan in place to help get everyone out of the home safely in case of an emergency.

When fires occur, Americans depend on our courageous firefighters to be first on the scene and to save lives. Each year, more than 100 of our country's firefighters die in the line of duty. Americans are grateful for the brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to rescue and protect their fellow citizens. During Fire Prevention Week, we recognize these heroes and honor their sacrifice.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 9 through October 15, 2005, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 9, 2005, in accordance with Public Law 107-51, the flag of the United States will be flown at half-staff on all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I invite the people of the United States to participate in this observance by flying our Nation's flag over their homes at half-staff on this day, to mark this week with appropriate programs and activities, and to renew efforts throughout the year to prevent fires and their tragic consequences.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:18 a.m., October 12, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7944—Columbus Day, 2005

October 7, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Christopher Columbus' journey across uncharted waters in 1492 changed the course of history. Overcoming many obstacles, the explorer from Genoa pursued a dream that carried him to the "New World" and helped launch an age of exploration, leading to the founding of new countries across the Americas. Through the years, the desire to discover and understand has been a part of our Nation's character, and Columbus' spirit has inspired generations of explorers and inventors. On Columbus Day, we honor Christopher Columbus and the vision that carried him on his historic voyage.

Since 1934, when President Roosevelt first proclaimed the national holiday, our Nation has observed Columbus Day to mark the moment when the Old World met the New. As we recognize Columbus' legacy, we also celebrate the contributions of Italian Americans to our Nation's growth and well-being. Americans of Italian descent are musicians and athletes, doctors and lawyers, teachers and first responders. They are serving bravely in our Armed Forces. From our country's first days, the sons and daughters of Italy have brought honor to themselves and enriched our national life.

More than 500 years after Columbus' journey, we are honored that the Italian Republic is among our closest friends and strongest allies. On Columbus Day, we celebrate this strong bond between America and Italy.

In commemoration of Columbus' journey, the Congress, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934, and modified in 1968 (36 U.S.C. 107), as amended, has requested that the President

proclaim the second Monday of October of each year as "Columbus Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2005, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:19 a.m., October 12, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7945—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2005

October 7, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's freedom has been achieved with great sacrifice. In the Revolutionary War, General Casimir Pulaski gave his life for the cause of freedom. Today, we honor his selfless contributions and heroic service.

Born in Poland, Casimir Pulaski fought Russian oppression in his homeland. In 1776, Benjamin Franklin met Pulaski in France and successfully recruited him to join the American fight for liberty. In America, Pulaski distinguished himself at the Battle of Brandywine and was commissioned as a Brigadier General by General George Washington. After raising his own legion, a special infantry and cavalry division that included many foreign-born troops, he helped defend Charleston, South Carolina, before being mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah in 1779.

General Pulaski exemplifies the spirit and determination of Polish immigrants to America, and he embodies our Nation's highest ideals. On this day, we express our gratitude for all the contributions of Polish Americans to our Nation and for the strong relationship between the United States and Poland. By honoring this lasting friendship and remembering heroes like General Pulaski, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing our country's founding ideals and carry forward our heritage of freedom.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2005, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities honoring Casimir Pulaski and all those who defend freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:19 a.m., October 12, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

October 8, 2005

Good morning. This week I nominated an exceptional individual to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court of the United States. Harriet Miers is a remarkable woman and an accomplished attorney. She has wide experience in the courtroom and at the highest levels of government, and she will be an outstanding addition to our Nation's highest Court.

Harriet Miers was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, where she attended the public schools. When illness struck her family, Harriet went to work to help pay for her own

college education. She stayed close to home in Dallas to attend Southern Methodist University and received a bachelor's degree in mathematics.

She remained at SMU for law school and earned a place on the law review. After graduation, she was hired for a prestigious 2-year clerkship for a Federal trial judge. From there, she went on to an extraordinary career in private practice and public service and became a pioneer for women lawyers. She was the first woman to be hired at her law firm, the first woman to become president of that firm, the first woman to lead a large law firm in the State of Texas, the first woman head of the Dallas Bar Association, and the first woman elected as president of the State Bar of Texas.

In her law practice, Ms. Miers handled hundreds of cases in State and Federal courts, from massive commercial litigation to criminal cases to civil disputes. She served in local government on the Dallas City Council and later held office in State government as well.

As Ms. Miers rose through the legal ranks, she also put in long hours of volunteer legal work on behalf of the poor and underprivileged, and served as a leader for more than a dozen community groups and charities. Beginning in the 1990s, Harriet Miers was regularly rated one of the top 100 lawyers in America and one of the top 50 women lawyers in the country.

Because of her skill and record of remarkable achievement, in 2001, I asked her to work in my administration. For the past 5 years, Harriet Miers has served our Nation in critical roles, including White House Counsel, one of the most important legal positions in the country. As counsel, Ms. Miers addresses complex matters of constitutional law, serves as the chief legal advisor during regular meetings of the National Security Council, and handles sensitive issues of executive-congressional relations, among many other essential duties. She has led the effort to help nominate outstanding judges for the Federal judiciary. She was in charge of the process that resulted in the appointment of Chief Justice John Roberts.

Harriet Miers would come to the Supreme Court with a background in private practice

and high-government service, and this puts her in strong company. Indeed, since 1933, 10 of the 34 justices came to the Supreme Court directly from positions in the executive branch, such as the one Ms. Miers now holds. And no Supreme Court nominee in the last 35 years has exceeded Harriet Miers' overall range of experience in courtroom litigation; service in Federal, State, and local government; leadership in local, State, and national bar associations; and pro bono and charitable activities.

Throughout her life, Ms. Miers has excelled at everything she has done. She's been a leader and a trailblazer for women lawyers, and her work has earned the respect of attorneys across the Nation. I chose Harriet Miers for the Court both because of her accomplishments and because I know her character and her judicial philosophy. Harriet Miers will be the type of judge I said I would nominate, a good conservative judge.

She shares my belief that judges should strictly interpret the Constitution and laws, not legislate from the bench. She understands that the role of a judge is to interpret the text of the Constitution and statutes as written, not as he or she might wish they were written. And she knows that judges should have a restrained and modest role in our constitutional democracy. Like Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Byron White, who were also nominated to the Supreme Court directly from legal positions in the executive branch, Harriet Miers will be prudent in exercising judicial power and firm in defending judicial independence.

When she goes before the Senate, I am confident that all Americans will see what I see every day: Harriet Miers is a woman of intelligence, strength, and conviction. And when she is confirmed by the Senate, I am confident that she will leave a lasting mark on the Supreme Court and will be a Justice who makes all Americans proud.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:35 a.m. on October 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Earthquake in Pakistan

October 8, 2005

The people of the United States offer our deepest sympathies for the loss of life and destruction caused by the earthquake that struck outside of Islamabad. Our initial deployments of assistance are underway, and we stand ready to provide additional assistance as needed. My thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this horrible tragedy.

Interview With Matt Lauer of NBC's "Today Show" in Covington, Louisiana

October 11, 2005

Mr. Lauer. Two of the volunteers this morning are the President of the United States and the First Lady. President Bush, good to see you again; Mrs. Bush, nice to have you here.

The First Lady. Hi, Matt.

Recovery From Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Mr. Lauer. Eight trips to this region for you since September 2d—six, I believe, for you, Mrs. Bush. Give me a sense of the biggest change you've seen over the past 6 or 7 weeks in this area.

President Bush. I think we've seen the spirits change. I mean, the storm hit; it was an overwhelming moment for a lot of people. And then they're beginning to realize, people—the local people are beginning to realize there's hope; there's a chance to rebuild lives. And a lot of people care about them.

I've seen some infrastructure change. The debris is being cleared, and roads are being rebuilt. And it's a remarkable spirit here in this part of the world. I mean, people say, "Look, we're going to rebuild our lives," and they've realized a lot of people from around the country want to help them.

Schools in Flood Ravaged Areas

Mr. Lauer. And as you see the progress, you also see how much remains to be done.

The First Lady. Sure.

Mr. Lauer. Schools still need to be re-opened—

The First Lady. That's true.

Mr. Lauer. —health facilities and all that sort of thing.

The First Lady. Well, I'm worried about the schools. I'm really interested in that. But I'm also proud that so many people have gone to school, so many parents have put their kids in school wherever they are, if they're in Houston or Fort Worth or Baton Rouge or wherever, and I think that's really important.

Responsibility for Response to Hurricanes

Mr. Lauer. So much more visibility on your part, President Bush, following Hurricane Rita and, as I mentioned, the eight trips to this region, as compared to what was seen as a slow and inefficient Federal response after Hurricane Katrina. Is this one of those situations where you're trying to get a second chance to make a first impression?

President Bush. I do my job as best I can. One of the things that we do is we respond to crises. And as I told the people, if I didn't respond well enough, we're going to learn the lessons. If there's any mistakes made at the Federal level, I, of course, accept responsibility for them.

On the other hand, there's a lot of good that's taken place, a lot of people are working hard. We had chopper drivers pulling people off roofs. We had, you know, people working long hours to save lives, and the story will unfold. I mean, the facts of the story will come out over time, and the important thing is for Federal, State, and local governments to adjust and to respond.

Plans for Rebuilding

Mr. Lauer. I talked to a prominent Democrat in Louisiana who has said that this type of appearance, while it's great to see you guys rolling up your sleeves and grabbing a hammer and helping with this piece of wall here, that it's a photo op, and they want to see

a plan on paper, your plan to rebuild this region. Do you have that kind of a plan?

President Bush. Well, Matt, you see, I don't think Washington ought to dictate to New Orleans how to rebuild. I guess we have a different philosophy than whoever the prominent Democrat was you spoke to. Last night Laura and I had dinner with Mayor Nagin and a group of distinguished New Orleans citizens from all walks of life. And my message to them was, "We will support the plan that you develop."

The point is, is that it comes from the local folks. And I recognize there's an attitude in Washington that says, "We know better than the local people." That's just not the attitude I have.

Forgiveness Clause

Mr. Lauer. There was recently a loan package approved by Congress, a billion dollars in emergency loans for the States hardest hit by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That's the good news. Some Democrats complain that there was wording taken out of that loan package, a forgiveness clause that has traditionally been included in loan packages in the past. And they're wondering why these three States were singled out. Would you ask Congress to go back into that legislation and reinstate the forgiveness clause?

President Bush. I think Congress—what Congress said was—is that the previous loans were limited to a relatively small amount of money. These loans are much greater loans, and that what Congress has said is, "You'll have 5 years to repay, plus an additional 5 years to repay." And so I think it's a kind of package that Congress was comfortable with giving, and I was happy to sign it.

Politics and Voluntarism in Disaster Relief

Mr. Lauer. Carolyn Maloney, who, as you know, is a Democrat from New York, a Congresswoman, said—

President Bush. You're quoting a lot of Democrats today, Matt. That's interesting. [Laughter]

Mr. Lauer. She said that we aren't asking the people of Iraq to pay back the money we're spending there. Why are we asking the people of the gulf coast, requiring them to

pay back this money? How would you respond to that?

President Bush. Well, the people of Iraq are paying a heavy price for terrorism. A lot of people are dying, Matt. These people are working hard to establish democracy, and they're paying a serious price. Look, I understand there are a lot of politics. One of the things that I suggested was we keep the politics out of New Orleans and Mississippi as we all work together to rebuild these communities. And we've got people here who volunteered their time, from all over the country, and they didn't say, you know, "I'm a Democrat, and I'm going to work here," or, "I'm a Republican, and I'm going to come and work here." They said, "I'm an American that wants to contribute."

And the reason why Laura and I are here is because we want to encourage other Americans to help somebody find shelter or help somebody find food or to continue to express the incredible compassion that the country saw when displaced persons moved from this part of the world and are scattered around the country.

Mr. Lauer. Which is a good point. So in other words, if someone says to you, "Okay, you're moving a wall today, and it's a photo op," but if that inspires someone else in another community to move a wall and grab a hammer, then that's mission accomplished?

The First Lady. That's right. And also, this gives us a chance to thank the people who do this all the time, not just in a crisis situation but who volunteer with Habitat in their towns wherever they are across the country or volunteer in a million other ways—working in schools or other ways. And this is really, really important, and it's very American to step out and help.

President Bush. I understand there's a lot of politics, and you keep talking about this politician or that politician. I think our job is to elevate this whole process out of normal politics. Frankly, we're supposed to—

Mr. Lauer. Is that possible, though? I mean, isn't it inevitable it will be bogged down in politics?

President Bush. It depends on who asks the questions, I guess. I think most Americans aren't interested in this kind of politics. I think most Americans are interested in con-

tributing. And the amazing thing about Katrina and Rita is that there has been a fantastic response by people from all walks of life that have welcomed a neighbor and said, "Brother, what can I do to help you?" Or, "How can I show you love?" And I applaud the "Today Show" and Habitat for Humanity and your partners in being a part of a larger picture of helping people rebuild their lives. It's a great contribution.

Associate Justice-Designate Harriet Miers

Mr. Lauer. While I have you here and while you don't have a hammer in your hand, can I ask you—well, you have it in your belt—[laughter]—about some things going on in Washington?

President Bush. Sure.

Mr. Lauer. A lot of criticism coming for your nominee to the Supreme Court, Harriet Miers, from conservatives, people like Trent Lott and Pat Buchanan and George Will and Bill Kristol. Were you taken off-guard a little bit, caught by surprise by the amount of criticism you're getting for Judge Miers?

President Bush. Well, you know, I made a decision to put somebody on the Court who hadn't been a part of what they call the "judicial monastery." In other words—I listened, by the way, to people in the Senate who suggested, "Why don't you get somebody from the outside." And I figured that people are going to kind of question whether or not it made sense to bring somebody from outside the court.

I would remind those, one, that Harriet is an extraordinary, accomplished woman who has done a lot. As a matter of fact, she has consistently ranked as one of the top 50 women lawyers in the United States, that she has broken the glass ceiling. She has served as a great example. She is a brilliant person. And that just because she hasn't served on the bench doesn't mean that she can't be a great Supreme Court Justice.

Mr. Lauer. But you know, conservatives are worried about what's going to happen when she gets on the bench, and they're worried about what's going to happen in the future. And I get the feeling—and I'm not sure if this is too strong—I get the feeling some conservatives, President Bush, are feeling let down by you, and they're thinking they've

supported you for so long and when an issue that is so important to them comes up, that you let them down. How would you answer that?

President Bush. My answer is Harriet Miers is going to be confirmed, and people will get to see why I put her on the bench. She is an extraordinary woman. She is——

Mr. Lauer. You said she is the most qualified candidate for the job——

President Bush. As I told you.

Mr. Lauer. ——would you agree with that?

The First Lady. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Mr. Lauer. You had pushed for a woman to be a nominee.

The First Lady. That's right. And I know Harriet well. I know how accomplished she is. I know how many times she's broken the glass ceiling, herself. She's a role model for young women around our country.

Mr. Lauer. Some are suggesting——

The First Lady. Not only that, she's very deliberate and thoughtful and will bring dignity to wherever she goes, but certainly to the Supreme Court she'll be really excellent.

Mr. Lauer. Some are suggesting there's a little possible sexism in the criticism of Judge Miers. How do you feel about that?

The First Lady. That's possible. I think that's possible. I think she is so accomplished, and I know—I think people are not looking at her accomplishments and not realizing that she was the first elected woman to be the head of the Texas Bar Association, for instance, and all the other things. She was the first woman managing partner of a major law firm. She was the first woman hired by a major law firm, her law firm.

President Bush. My attitude, Matt, is when people get to know her, they'll see why I picked her.

The First Lady. They will. In the confirmation hearings alone, they'll see that she—what she's like.

Mr. Lauer. I think the Washington Times has a story this morning that said they had about 27 Republican Senators have serious questions about Judge Miers—or about Harriet Miers——

President Bush. No, Judge Miers—well spoken.

Mr. Lauer. I was going to say—kind of getting ahead of myself here. So you are convinced that she will be confirmed?

President Bush. Absolutely. Not only am I convinced that she'll be confirmed; I'm convinced that she'll be a fine, great judge. And I'm convinced that she'll be the kind of—she won't change. I mean, the person I know is not the kind of person that is going to change her philosophy. And her philosophy is, is that she is not going to legislate from the bench. So I told the American people when I campaigned for President the type of judge I'll pick. I picked that type of person in John Roberts, and I picked that type of person in Harriet Miers.

Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove/CIA Employee's Identity Disclosure Investigation

Mr. Lauer. Your political guru, Karl Rove, is set to—or scheduled to testify before a grand jury for the fourth time this coming week, it seems, looking into the leak of a CIA agent's name. You've said if someone on your staff had anything to do with that leak, you'll take care of that person. Has Karl Rove looked you in the eye, Mr. President, and said, "I, in no way, bent or broke the rules or the law when it comes to this case"?

President Bush. Matt, I've also consistently said I'm not going to talk about the case. It's under review, so I'm not going to talk about it. Thank you for asking, but—on the other hand, the special prosecutor has made it clear—and made it clear—that he doesn't want anybody speculating or talking about the case, so I'm not going to talk about it.

Mr. Lauer. But does it worry you that they seem to have such an interest in Mr. Rove?

President Bush. I'm not going to talk about the case. I've been asked this a lot; my answer is consistent. The special prosecutor is conducting a very serious investigation. He's doing it in a very dignified way, by the way, and we'll see what he says.

Iraq

Mr. Lauer. Got a big date coming up in Iraq this coming week, on the 15th, a vote on the referendum on the constitution there. What do you expecting to happen there? And

what are you expecting to happen in the days leading up to that vote?

President Bush. I expect violence, because there's a group of terrorists and killers who want to try to stop the advance of democracy in Iraq. I also expect people to vote, which is a remarkable achievement. We had a remarkable achievement last January when millions of people voted. They now have a chance to vote on a constitution that will help unify the country. And then they'll have a chance to vote, if the constitution passes, on a permanent government.

And so what you're seeing is the unfolding of a dual-track strategy. On the one hand, democracy is advancing, much to the amazement of a lot of people, particularly people in the region. And on the other hand, we're working to train Iraqi troops so they can provide the security for a democracy to move forward.

Avian Flu

Mr. Lauer. I'm going to let you get back to work in a second. I'm just curious about one other subject, and you've spoken about this recently, this whole issue of a possible worldwide pandemic, this avian flu. You know, 60 people have died in Asia so far. They're worried that if this comes here there are, by some estimates, this could claim millions of lives around the world.

After Hurricane Katrina, there are some people in this country who are worried. They're not sure who's in charge, who do I turn to, who's going to handle a major catastrophe in this country? Are you confident that this administration has a plan in place to handle something like that?

President Bush. I'm confident that we're working to identify the possible outbreak of avian flu, contain it to where the outbreak takes place, and strategize how to deal with it if it ever were to come to the United States.

Mr. Lauer. Who would take the lead in that? Would it be a military situation? Would it be homeland security?

President Bush. It's a really interesting question, and it's one that I raised that has created a little bit of consternation among some. I have said that there may be a catastrophic event such that the Federal Government has got the—it's only the Federal Gov-

ernment that has got the capacity to move in quickly with a lot of resources, which would require law changes. For example, the military cannot become police without a special proclamation.

And so we're planning all this out. We're in the midst of, one, identifying that there may be a problem, and, two, what to do about it. When I have a plan that I'm comfortable with, of course I will talk to the American people about it.

Mr. Lauer. Your husband has been through an awful lot—

The First Lady. Our country has been through an awful lot.

Mr. Lauer. What toll have you seen this take, personally, on him? Not only—you know, we had 9/11 in the first term, and now we've got Iraq, and we've got Katrina, and we've got Rita. What toll have you seen this take?

The First Lady. Well—

President Bush. He can barely stand. He's about to drop on the spot. [Laughter]

The First Lady. He's doing great. He's got big, broad shoulders. There's a lot, but there's a lot on the American people too. And their response has been so terrific. You know, we can face challenges, and they're tough, and this is very tough down here. The number of people, the huge number of people that are displaced, that have lost everything, but you know, people are rebuilding their lives, and other people want to help them, and that's what I see.

President Bush. You know, I'm the kind of guy who gets inspired by the decency of others, and as I travel the country and see this incredible spirit, it's so uplifting. It makes me understand how blessed we are to be an American. These folks right here—I never met them before, but they're from all over the country. They're here for one reason, to love a neighbor. And that's a remarkable expression. And Laura and I want to thank them, and we want to encourage others around the country to do—to follow their lead and follow their example.

Mr. Lauer. Well, this is going to be the home of the Collins family, and we're going to talk to the Collins family in a little while.

The First Lady. That's great.

Mr. Lauer. Mrs. Bush, President Bush, thanks so much for your time this morning.

President Bush. Thanks, Matt, appreciate it.

The First Lady. Thanks, Matt.

Mr. Lauer. Grab your hammers, and go back to work. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The interview was taped at 6:07 a.m. at the Habitat for Humanity site for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; and Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Remarks to Reporters in Pass Christian, Mississippi

October 11, 2005

Listen, first I want to thank the superintendent for inviting us here. The schools of Pass Christian are blue ribbon schools. And they have been blue ribbon schools before, and they'll be blue ribbon schools in the future. Part of the health of a community is to have a school system that's vibrant and alive. And in spite of the fact that a lot of equipment was damaged and homes destroyed and teachers without places to live and—this school district is strong, and it's coming back. And it's a sign that out of the rubble here on the gulf coast of Mississippi is a rebuilding, is a spirit of rebuilding.

And thank you all for having us. I want to thank the principals and teachers for understanding the quality of education—the quality of the education in a community helps define the nature of the community. And one of the things that's interesting is the high school principal told Laura and me that the—and Madam Secretary—that the high school was deemed to be a blue ribbon high school after Katrina hit. And yet a lot of the students don't know that yet. And so when the high school comes back next Monday, the first thing the principal is going to tell them is that the school that they go to, even though the building is different—the buildings are different—is a blue ribbon high school.

And the superintendent says, blue ribbon high school last year, this year, and next year.

And I appreciate your spirit. Thanks for letting us come by.

Thank you all. Bye-bye. Good to meet you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:54 a.m. at DeLisle Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to Sue Matheson, superintendent, Pass Christian School District; Cathy Broadway, principal, Pass Christian High School; and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

Remarks at the Joint Reserve Base at the U.S. Naval Air Station in New Orleans, Louisiana

October 11, 2005

Generals, thanks—General Landreneau and General Downer, thank you all for greeting me here. I'm proud to be traveling with Members of the United States Congress who are with us today. Listen, I'm here to thank you all for what has been an incredible outpouring of talent and skill and compassion to help the good folks of this part of the world that have suffered mightily. I'm incredibly proud of those who wear our Nation's uniform, and I'm incredibly proud of the job you have done. You have brought great credit to your units, credit to your family, and credit to our Nation.

We've got a lot of work to do, and I'll be telling the people that I've had an honor to meet, opportunity to meet, that out of this rubble is going to come some good, out of the devastation is going to come new cities and new hope. And I hope you take great inspiration in being a part of the renewal of this important part of the world.

I want you to, when you talk to your families, to tell them the Commander in Chief is proud of them as—I'm equally as proud of them as I am proud of you.

May God bless you all and your work. May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless our great country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:29 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General for Louisiana; and Brig. Gen. Huntington B. Downer, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General for Louisiana.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5766

October 11, 2005

*Seek the Lord while He may be found,
call unto Him while He is near.*

Isaiah 55:6

Yom Kippur is the Sabbath of Sabbaths, the most solemn day of the Jewish calendar. On this day, Jews around the world reflect on their lives and give thanks to God for their many blessings. The Rabbis teach that on Yom Kippur, God holds open the gates of Heaven and listens to every word of every prayer. As those final prayers are shared and the Shofar is sounded, God remembers every name—those living and those departed. In this moment, we draw near to God, sharing in the wonders of all creation and the miracle of all life.

Yom Kippur teaches us that we merit forgiveness and mercy through repentance, prayer, and acts of charity. May we have the strength to achieve all these things, so that we continue to build a more hopeful Nation and a more peaceful and free world.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a blessed day.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland and an Exchange With Reporters

October 12, 2005

President Bush. Thank you all for coming. I'll have a statement; Aleksander will have a statement. We'll be glad to answer two questions per side.

Welcome back. This is a happy moment, because I get to see my friend again. It's a sad moment, because he is leaving office. He has done an extraordinary job. We have built a strong personal relationship, but more importantly, we have a strong strategic relationship with Poland, thanks to your leadership.

Aleksander has helped advance the cause of peace by advancing the cause of freedom. He has served as a mentor for new democracies in the neighborhood. He has proven that you can be a friend to the United States and a loyal member of the EU at the same time. We have worked hard together to improve the lots of both our peoples.

And Mr. President, you can leave with your—your office with your head held high because of the fine job you have done. I am glad you came back, and it's an honor to be able to praise you to the people of your country for a job—a fine job.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you, sir.

President Bush. Hold on, we're going to a little—

President Kwasniewski. Yes. Thank you for—

President Bush. Do want to do an interpretation?

President Kwasniewski. Yes, I think interpretation is better.

President Bush. Especially after what I just said. [*Laughter*]

President Kwasniewski. I want to thank you very much, Mr. President. I want to thank you very much for those nice words. It is true that this visit is both a farewell visit and a visit that is a recapitulation of 10 years of my Presidency and 10 years of Polish-American relations between our two countries.

I started my Presidency in a different world, and now I'm leaving the office when the world is different and the world now is better, I believe. We are together in NATO. We are in NATO together with other Central and Eastern European countries. We are in NATO, together with the Baltic States, and we are also together in a group, in fact, family. Together we are building peace and stability in different parts of the world. We are fighting together against terrorism. We are fulfilling our task with joy and satisfaction, and we do it effectively. And together we are bringing more peace and more democracy to the world. We are also creating more values for the humanity. We are fighting for human rights and for the dignity of human beings.

And we have been cooperating together with President Bush, and we have made together very hard and very difficult and very important decisions. Today we talked about what we have done together, and we have also talked about the fact that we will be continuing the policy of cooperation between the two countries and that the new Polish government and my successor in the Presidential office will continue this policy in the years to come.

I want to say that I'm very happy that we are enjoying and following the values between Polish and American cooperation and that we are developing our contacts. We have summed up our bilateral cooperation. There is still very much ahead of us, and here, as you can see here on the table next to President Bush, there is a document that I have presented to him, and this document is the recapitulation of our achievement, and it is also the information about our future cooperation. It's also the encouragement to cooperate in the future.

President Bush. Thank you.

We'll take a couple of questions. Diedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press].

Associate Justice-Designate Harriet Miers

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Why do people in this White House feel it's necessary to tell your supporters that Harriet Miers attends a very conservative Christian church? Is that your strategy to repair the divide that has developed among conservatives over her nomination?

President Bush. People ask me why I picked Harriet Miers. They want to know Harriet Miers' background. They want to know as much as they possibly can before they form opinions. And part of Harriet Miers' life is her religion. Part of it has to do with the fact that she was a pioneer woman and a trailblazer in the law in Texas. I remind people that Harriet Miers is one of the—has been rated consistently one of the top 50 women lawyers in the United States. She's eminently qualified for the job. And she has got a judicial philosophy that I appreciate. Otherwise I wouldn't have named her to the bench, which is—or nominated her to the bench—which is that she

will not legislate from the bench but strictly interpret the Constitution.

So our outreach program has been just to explain the facts to people. But more importantly, Harriet is going to be able to explain the facts to the people when she testifies. And people are going to see why I named her—nominated her to the bench, and she's going to make a great Supreme Court judge.

Poland-United States Relations

Q. Mr. President, President Bush, there is a significant change of power underway in Poland right now. Some have already said that they would ask for more from the United States in return for Polish support and continued engagement in Iraq. Are you aware of these positions, and do you expect any changes in Polish-American relations, any tougher talk, maybe?

President Bush. Well, we had a talk about who might succeed Aleksander and their opinions. My advice would be for whoever succeeds the President to come and visit and to exchange visits with foreign ministers, such as our foreign minister as well as our minister of defense and to strategize. That's what friends do. They share concerns and share goals, and then work together to satisfy concerns and achieve goals. And I'm confident that's going to happen.

President Kwasniewski. I would like to add a few words for the Polish media here. We have talked about this, and I think that this is information important for the Polish media. Poland wants the stabilization mission in Iraq to be a success and to complete with success. We want to be a serious partner, and we want to be a steadfast and loyal partner in the coalition. Our troops are in Iraq, and they will stay in Iraq until the end of January, and the decision has been made and nothing changes here. But we have to think about the future, and we have to respect the right of the new government and the right of the new President to make their decisions about it.

It was the right suggestion of President George W. Bush, and the decision will be forwarded by me to our authorities and people in Poland when I come back, that after the new government is established, the new Polish Defense Minister and the Foreign

Minister should come here to Washington to talk about the future, because the future goes far beyond January next year. And we have to talk about what we shall do together to continue this cause.

President Bush. Caren [Caren Bohan, Reuters].

Syria

Q. Thank you, sir. The Syrian Interior Minister has committed suicide. What are the consequences for Syria if they are implicated in the murder of the former Lebanese Prime Minister?

President Bush. I don't want to prejudice the report that's coming out, the Mehlis report. I think it's very important for Syria to understand that the free world respects Lebanese democracy and expects Syria to honor that democracy. It's one thing to have been asked to remove troops and all intelligence services. Now the world wants for—expects Syria to honor the democracy in the country of Lebanon.

Secondly, we expect Syria to do everything in her power to shut down the trans-shipment of suiciders and killers into Iraq. We expect Syria to be a good neighbor to Iraq. We expect Syria not to agitate killers in the Palestinian territory. We're making good progress toward peace in the Holy Land, but one of the areas of concern is that foreign countries, such as Syria, might try to disrupt the peace process through encouraging terrorist activities.

So we have a lot of expectations for Syria beyond just the Mehlis report. But let's see how the Mehlis report—what it says. In the meantime, we'll continue to work with friends and allies to send a clear message to the Asad Government, there are expectations involved for countries that want to be accepted in the international community.

Go ahead.

Russia

Q. It's a question for President Bush. Mr. President, we thought that your last summit between America and Russian leaders, American diplomacy was stepping up the pressure on Moscow in reference to causes of democratic reforms in that country and the situation in Chechnya. And right now we

have a long list of problems between Poland and Russia. So what's your point of view and what would be your advice for a new Polish government, how we should handle that situation?

President Bush. We've got—I've got good relations with President Putin; America has got a working relationship with Russia. And always, as a part of our discussions with Russia is my personal—when I have personal discussions with him, I remind him of my deep faith in democracy, and the people that interrelate with Russia from my Government remind their Russian counterparts about democracy and its importance.

The reason I believe in democracy so strongly is because I believe in freedom, and democracy is a manifestation of free societies. I believe there's a desire for everybody to be free. I also know that free societies are peaceful societies. One of the goals of this administration is to promote peace, and the more democracy and the more freedom there is, the more likely it is the world will be peaceful.

So we've got a consistent message to Russia, and that is that one should not fear democracy; one should embrace democracy. Now, having said that, I recognize that Russian democracy will be different from the United States. We don't expect every country to look like us. We just expect people to embrace some universal truths, the right of people to worship freely, the right of women to be able to equally participate in society—which is the case in Russia, of course—the rule of law, the respect for private property. These are fundamental, basic principles that we believe should be inherent in all societies. People need to make those choices themselves, but one of the roles of the United States is to remind people about how beneficial a democratic society can be to its people. And so we're consistent in our message.

Thank you all very much.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you. You see, this is the difference between the President in power—you have many questions—and the President who has finished his job—no questions. [Laughter] Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:54 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Kwasniewski spoke in Polish, and his remarks

were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; Detlev Mehliis, head, United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Memorandum on the National Flood Insurance Program

October 12, 2005

Memorandum for the Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: National Flood Insurance Program

I have reviewed your request for approval to issue notes to the Secretary of the Treasury in excess of \$1.5 billion, but not to exceed \$3.5 billion, for the National Flood Insurance Program and hereby grant approval for you to do so.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Teleconference Remarks With United States Troops in Iraq

October 13, 2005

The President. Captain Kennedy?

Capt. Brent Kennedy. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Well, it's good to see you. Thanks. Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to allow me to visit with you a little bit. I've got some questions for you here in a minute, but I do want to share some thoughts with you.

First, I want to thank the members of the 42d Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty for serving our country with such distinction and honor. I want you to know that the mission you are on is vital to achieving peace and to protecting America. One of my most solemn duties, a duty that you have joined me on, is to protect the American people.

And we're facing an enemy that is ruthless and coldblooded, an enemy that actually has a philosophy, and the philosophy is so opposite of ours. It is the exact opposite of what America stands for. We stand for religious

freedom and freedom to speak and women's rights and capacity for people to realize their dreams. They stand for a vision that is—doesn't believe in freedom, that if you don't agree with their narrow point of view, that you're subject to reprisal.

And so I want to thank you for being a part of this global war. And Iraq is a part of the war, because the enemy understands that a free Iraq will be a blow to their vision and their strategy of spreading dominance throughout the broader Middle East. And so I want to thank you. When you e-mail your families, you tell them how proud the Commander in Chief is of their patience and their support as well.

One of the tactics of the enemy is to shake our will. Part of their strategy is to use the killing of innocent people to get the American Government to pull you out of there before the mission is complete. I'm going to assure you of this, that so long as I'm the President, we're never going to back down; we're never going to give in; we'll never accept anything less than total victory. It's important for you to know that. It's important for the enemy to know that as well.

We've got a strategy, and it's a clear strategy. On the one hand, we will hunt down these killers and terrorists and bring them to justice and train the Iraqi forces to join us in that effort. The second part of the strategy is a political strategy, based upon the knowledge that you defeat a backward, dark philosophy with one that's hopeful. And that hopeful philosophy is one based upon universal freedom. I'm very impressed that the Iraqi Government has continued to work to have a constitution that attracts Sunnis and Shi'as and Kurds. They've worked hard to get a constitution, and now the people of Iraq are going to get to vote once again, on a constitution, in this case.

And I want to thank you for providing the security necessary for people to exercise their free will. You're part of an historic mission that is laying the foundation for peace. I am convinced that when we look back at this time in history, those who follow us, whether it be in the armed services or in the political process, will say, "Thank goodness the United States of America didn't lose our

nerve or will, that we've put in motion something that can't be stopped," and that is the march of freedom.

So I want to thank you for giving me a chance to visit with you. You just got to know the American people are proud of you. You've got tremendous support here at home, and there's nobody more proud of you than I am.

Let me ask you some questions, Captain, if you don't mind. One of the, you know, questions I have is about the pre-election operations, about what you've been doing, and what are the—what's your strategy, and how do you think it's going for—to make sure the people have a chance to vote.

By the way, you're in Tikrit, as I understand it as well. It's kind of an interesting place to be. It's Saddam's old stomping grounds.

Capt. Kennedy. Good morning, Mr. President, from Tikrit. I'm Captain Brent Kennedy. To my right is Sergeant Major Akeel from the 5th Iraqi Army Division. We're working together here with the Iraqis in Task Force Liberty for the upcoming referendum. We're surging in an operation, called Operation Saratoga, that includes the securing of over 1,250 polling sites. We're working right alongside with the Iraqis as they lead the way in securing these sites.

The President. That's good. And so, like—I mean, and so the vote is in less than 48 hours—or about 48 hours, I guess. And so how do you—how would—are you confident? I mean, how do you feel like the operations are going?

Capt. Kennedy. Mr. President, I'm going to field that question to Captain Smith.

The President. I didn't want to give you—I didn't want to throw you a hardball there, Captain.

Capt. David J. Smith. Morning, Mr. President. I'm Captain Dave Smith from Grand Rapids, Michigan. I'm representing the 3d Brigade Combat Team here in—headquartered in Baqubah.

The President. Right.

Capt. Smith. I work directly with the Iraqi army. I am responsible for coordinating all their security responses in our area of operations.

Sir, our Iraqi partners have been conducting battalion and brigade-size operations since April. They have been planning and coordinating with other Iraqi security forces, such as the Iraqi police and local government agencies, preparing for this referendum. Sir, we as coalition forces, we have taken a supporting role only as they prepare to execute this referendum.

The President. How are they doing? Give us an assessment. One of the things, Captain, that people in America want to know is, one, do the Iraqis want to fight, and are they capable of fighting? And maybe somebody can give us an appraisal.

Capt. Kennedy. Mr. President, I'm going to field that question to Captain Pratt.

Capt. Stephen N. Pratt. Good morning, Mr. President. My name is Captain Stephen Pratt from Pocatello, Idaho, serving with the 116th Brigade Combat Team as the Iraqi army coordinator. The Iraqi army and police services, along with coalition support, have conducted many and multiple exercises and rehearsals. Recently we've conducted a command post exercise in which we brought together these Iraqi security forces with emergency service units and the joint coordination center, in which we all sat around a terrain model and discussed what each one would do at their specific location and what they would do at the referendum.

It was impressive to me to see the cooperation and the communication that took place among the Iraqi forces. Along with the coalition's backing them, we'll have a very successful and effective referendum vote.

The President. Captain, thank you very much. Let me ask you something. As you move around, I presume you have a chance to interface with the civilians there in that part of the world. And a lot of Americans are wondering whether or not people appreciate your presence or whether or not the people are anxious to be part of the democratic process. Can you give us a sense for the reception of the people there in Tikrit toward coalition forces as well as the Iraqi units that they encounter?

Capt. Kennedy. Mr. President, I'm going to field this question to Captain Williams.

Capt. David Williams. Mr. President, I'm Captain David Williams. I'm from Los

Angeles, California. I'm currently with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, attached to the Military Transition Team. Sir, in north-central Iraq, voter registration is up 17 percent. That's 400,000 new voters in north-central Iraq and 100,000 new voters in the al Salah ad Din province. Sir, I was with my Iraqi counterpart in Tikrit, the city Tikrit last week, and he was going around talking to the locals. And from what he told me that the locals told him, the Iraqi people are ready and eager to vote in this referendum.

The President. That's good. It's pretty interesting. That's a pretty interesting concept for the people of Tikrit, when you really think about the fact that that was Saddam Hussein's hometown. They didn't get to vote too often when he was the leader there. Let me ask you about the progress. Most of you have been there for nearly a year, as I understand it.

And is it possible to give us a sense, kind of a calibration of what life was like when you first got there and what it's like today?

Capt. Kennedy. Mr. President, Master Sergeant Lombardo will answer this question.

M. Sgt. Corine Lombardo. Good morning, Mr. President. I'm Master Sergeant Corine Lombardo, with the Headquarters 42d Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty, from Scotia, New York. First, I'd like to say that this is a pleasure to speak with you again. We had the honor of your visit in New York City on November 11th, in 2001, when you recognized our Rainbow Soldiers for their recovery and rescue efforts at Ground Zero.

The President. Were you there?

M. Sgt. Lombardo. We began our fight against terrorism in the wake of 9/11, and we're proud to continue it here in north-central New York—north-central Iraq.

The President. Let me ask you something. Were you there when I came to New York?

M. Sgt. Lombardo. Yes, I was, Mr. President.

The President. I thought you looked familiar. [Laughter]

M. Sgt. Lombardo. Well, thank you.

The President. I probably look familiar to you too. [Laughter]

M. Sgt. Lombardo. Yes, you do, Mr. President. I can tell you over the past 10 months, we've seen a tremendous increase in the capabilities and the confidences of our Iraqi security force partners. We've been working side by side, training and equipping 18 Iraqi army battalions. Since we began our partnership, they have improved greatly, and they continue to develop and grow into sustainable forces. Over the next month, we anticipate seeing at least one-third of those Iraqi forces conducting independent operations.

The President. That's important. The American people have got to know—and I appreciate you bringing that up, Sergeant Major, about how—what the progress is like. In other words, we've got a measurement system—

M. Sgt. Lombardo. Well, together—

The President. I'm sorry, go ahead.

M. Sgt. Lombardo. I'm sorry—just, together with our coalition forces, we've captured over 50 terrorists as well as detained thousands of others that have ties to the insurgency. And I believe it is these accomplishments and the numerous accomplishments from our task force that will provide a safe and secure environment for the referendum vote.

The President. Well, I appreciate that. There's no question that we need to stay on the offense. And we need to stay on the offense with well-trained Iraqi forces, side by side the finest military ever to exist, and that's the United States military.

M. Sgt. Lombardo. That it is, Mr. President. Thank you.

The President. Yes. Sergeant Akeel, thanks for joining us. I appreciate—appreciate your service. You've got something to say, Akeel?

Sgt. Maj. Shaker Nassir Akeel. Good morning, Mr. President. Thank you for everything. Thank very much for everything.

The President. Yes, you're welcome.

Sgt. Maj. Akeel. I like you. [Laughter]

The President. Well, I appreciate that.

1st Lt. Gregg A. Murphy. Good morning, Mr. President.

The President. Go ahead.

1st Lt. Murphy. I'm First Lieutenant Gregg Murphy from the 278th Regimental

Combat Team, from the Volunteer State of Tennessee. I want to tell you, sir, that we appreciate you coming with us today for this interview and hearing us express our confidence in the Iraqi security forces' role in the upcoming referendum. Sir, we are prepared to do whatever it takes to make this thing a success. But the important thing here is that the Iraqi army and the Iraqi security forces, they're ready, and they're committed. They're going to make this thing happen.

Back in January, when we were preparing for that election, we had to lead the way. We set up the coordination. We made the plan. We're really happy to see, during the preparation for this one, sir, they're doing everything. They're making the plans. They're calling each other. They've got it laid out. So on Saturday, sir, we're going to be beside them. We're going to be there to support them through anything. But we can't wait to share in their success with them on Sunday.

Sir, from all of us here at Task Force Liberty here in Tikrit, we want to express our gratitude to you for spending a little time with us this morning, and thank you, sir, for hearing our assessment of the current situation here in Tikrit, Iraq.

The President. Well, Lieutenant, thanks. It's been my honor. And you know, I wish I could be there to see you face to face, to thank you personally. It's probably a little early for me to go to Tikrit, but one of these days perhaps the situation will be such that I'll be able to get back to Iraq to not only thank our troops but to thank those brave Iraqis who are standing strong in the face of these foreign fighters and these radicals that are trying to stop the march of freedom.

Again, I want to thank you all for being so courageous and for stepping up when the United States of America needed you. I repeat what I said earlier: Please give your loved ones my deepest respect. And you've got to know, the American people are standing strong with you. We're proud of you. May God bless you all in your work, and when you get back to the States, you know, if I'm hanging around, come by and say hello. *[Laughter]*

Thank you all.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 9:54 a.m. The President spoke from Room 350 of the Dwight

D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building to troops in Tikrit, Iraq. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Participating in the teleconference were Capt. Brent Kennedy, USA, Capt. David J. Smith, USA, Capt. Stephen N. Pratt, USA, Capt. David Williams, USA, M. Sgt. Corine Lombardo, USA, 1st Lt. Gregg A. Murphy, USA, S. Sgt. David Smith-Barry, USA, Sfc. Jerry R. Munoz, USA, Sgt. Dustin Giesbrecht, USA, and Sgt. Ronald E. Long, Jr., USA, 42d Infantry Division; and Sgt. Maj. Akeel Shaker Nassir, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

Remarks After Signing the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of Pakistan

October 14, 2005

Mr. Ambassador, thank you for having us. I'm here to express the condolences of the American people to those who suffered mightily as a result of the earthquake that struck your country. There's been a lot of loss of life, and Americans pray for those families who have lost a loved one.

There's been a lot of damage, and we want to help in any way we can. I told the Ambassador that—reminded him what I told President Musharraf—I said when I spoke to him, I said, "Pakistan is a friend, and America will help." We've moved a lot of military equipment in there. We're helping with humanitarian aid as well. And so not only will we offer our prayers, but we'll offer our help and help the people and help the Government, help this great nation get back on its feet.

Thank you for having us.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Jehangir Karamat, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

Executive Order 13387—2005 Amendments to the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States

October 14, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including chapter

47 of title 10, United States Code (Uniform Code of Military Justice, 10 U.S.C. 801–946), and in order to prescribe amendments to the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, prescribed by Executive Order 12473, as amended, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Part II of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended as follows:

(a) R.C.M. 103(2) is amended by replacing the word “without” with the word “with” and by replacing the word “noncapital” with the word “capital”.

(b) R.C.M. 201(e)(2)(B) is amended by adding the word “general” between the words “convene” and “courts-martial” and by inserting the following words after “armed forces”:

“assigned or attached to a combatant command or joint command”.

(c) R.C.M. 201(e)(2)(C) is amended by inserting the words “assigned or attached to a joint command or joint task force,” immediately before the words “under regulations which the superior command may prescribe”.

(d) R.C.M. 201(e)(3) is amended by inserting the following immediately after the words “armed force”:

“, using the implementing regulations and procedures prescribed by the Secretary concerned of the military service of the accused,”.

(e) R.C.M. 201(e)(4) is amended by adding the words “, member, or counsel” after the words “military judge”.

(f) R.C.M. 201(f)(1)(A)(iii)(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) The case has not been referred with a special instruction that the case is to be tried as capital.”

(g) R.C.M. 307(c)(4) is amended by inserting the following at the end thereof:

“What is substantially one transaction should not be made the basis for an unreasonable multiplication of charges against one person.”

(h) R.C.M. 501(a)(1) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) General courts-martial.

(A) Except in capital cases, general courts-martial shall consist of a military judge and not less than five members, or of the military

judge alone if requested and approved under R.C.M. 903.

(B) In all capital cases, general courts-martial shall consist of a military judge and no fewer than 12 members, unless 12 members are not reasonably available because of physical conditions or military exigencies. If 12 members are not reasonably available, the convening authority shall detail the next lesser number of reasonably available members under 12, but in no event fewer than five. In such a case, the convening authority shall state in the convening order the reasons why 12 members are not reasonably available.”

(i) R.C.M. 503(a)(3) is amended by deleting “court-martial” and inserting “courts-martial” in lieu thereof.

(j) R.C.M. 503(b)(3) is amended by inserting the words “, a combatant command or joint command” after the words “A military judge from one armed force may be detailed to a court-martial convened in a different armed force”.

(k) R.C.M. 503(c)(3) is amended by inserting the words “, a combatant command or joint command” after the words “A person from one armed force may be detailed to serve as counsel in a court-martial in a different armed force”.

(l) R.C.M. 504, (b)(2)(A) is amended by inserting the following at the end thereof:

“A subordinate joint command or joint task force is ordinarily considered to be “separate or detached.””

(m) R.C.M. 504, (b)(2)(B) is amended by deleting the word “or” at the end of the first element thereof, by deleting the period and adding “; or” at the end of the second element thereof, and by inserting the following as a third element:

“(iii) In a combatant command or joint command, by the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the command.”

(n) R.C.M. 805(b) is amended by replacing the current second sentence with the following:

“No general court-martial proceeding requiring the presence of members may be conducted unless at least five members are present, or in capital cases, at least 12 members are present except as provided in R.C.M. 501(a)(1)(B), where 12 members are

not reasonably available because of physical conditions or military exigencies. No special court-martial proceeding requiring the presence of members may be conducted unless at least three members are present except as provided in R.C.M. 912(h)."

(o) R.C.M. 912(f)(4) is amended by deleting the fifth sentence and by inserting the following words immediately after the words "When a challenge for cause has been denied" in the fourth sentence:

"the successful use of a peremptory challenge by either party, excusing the challenged member from further participation in the court-martial, shall preclude further consideration of the challenge of that excused member upon later review. Further,"

(p) R.C.M. 1003(b)(2) is amended by replacing the word "foreign" with the word "hardship."

(q) R.C.M. 1004(b) is amended by inserting the following after "(1) Notice." and before the word "Before":

"(A) Referral. The convening authority shall indicate that the case is to be tried as a capital case by including a special instruction in the referral block of the charge sheet. Failure to include this special instruction at the time of the referral shall not bar the convening authority from later adding the required special instruction, provided:

(i) that the convening authority has otherwise complied with the notice requirement of subsection (B); and

(ii) that if the accused demonstrates specific prejudice from such failure to include the special instruction, a continuance or a recess is an adequate remedy.

(B) Arraignment."

(r) Insert the following new R.C.M. 1103A after R.C.M. 1103:

"Rule 1103A. Sealed exhibits and proceedings.

(a) *In general.* If the record of trial contains exhibits, proceedings, or other matter ordered sealed by the military judge, the trial counsel shall cause such materials to be sealed so as to prevent indiscriminate viewing or disclosure. Trial counsel shall ensure that such materials are properly marked, including an annotation that the material was sealed by order of the military judge, and inserted at the appropriate place in the original record

of trial. Copies of the record shall contain appropriate annotations that matters were sealed by order of the military judge and have been inserted in the original record of trial. This Rule shall be implemented in a manner consistent with Executive Order 12958, as amended, concerning classified national security information.

(b) *Examination of sealed exhibits and proceedings.* Except as provided in the following subsections to this rule, sealed exhibits may not be examined.

(1) *Examination of sealed matters.* For the purpose of this rule, "examination" includes reading, viewing, photocopying, photographing, disclosing, or manipulating the documents in any way.

(2) *Prior to authentication.* Prior to authentication of the record by the military judge, sealed materials may not be examined in the absence of an order from the military judge based on good cause shown.

(3) *Authentication through action.* After authentication and prior to disposition of the record of trial pursuant to Rule for Courts-Martial 1111, sealed materials may not be examined in the absence of an order from the military judge upon a showing of good cause at a post-trial Article 39a session directed by the Convening Authority.

(4) *Reviewing and appellate authorities.*

(A) Reviewing and appellate authorities may examine sealed matters when those authorities determine that such action is reasonably necessary to a proper fulfillment of their responsibilities under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the Manual for Courts-Martial, governing directives, instructions, regulations, applicable rules for practice and procedure, or rules of professional responsibility.

(B) Reviewing and appellate authorities shall not, however, disclose sealed matter or information in the absence of:

(i) Prior authorization of the Judge Advocate General in the case of review under Rule for Courts-Martial 1201(b); or

(ii) Prior authorization of the appellate court before which a case is pending review under Rules for Courts-Martial 1203 and 1204.

(C) In those cases in which review is sought or pending before the United States

Supreme Court, authorization to disclose sealed materials or information shall be obtained under that Court's rules of practice and procedure.

(D) The authorizing officials in paragraph (B)(ii) above may place conditions on authorized disclosures in order to minimize the disclosure.

(E) For purposes of this rule, reviewing and appellate authorities are limited to:

(i) Judge advocates reviewing records pursuant to Rule for Courts-Martial 1112;

(ii) Officers and attorneys in the office of the Judge Advocate General reviewing records pursuant to Rule for Courts-Martial 1201(b);

(iii) Appellate government counsel;

(iv) Appellate defense counsel;

(v) Appellate judges of the Courts of Criminal Appeals and their professional staffs;

(vi) The judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and their professional staffs;

(vii) The Justices of the United States Supreme Court and their professional staffs; and

(viii) Any other court of competent jurisdiction."

(s) R.C.M. 1301(a) is amended by inserting the following after the second sentence:

"Summary courts-martial shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the military service to which the accused belongs."

Sec. 2. Part III of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended as follows:

Mil. R. Evid. 317(b) is amended by replacing the word "Transportation" with the words "Homeland Security."

Sec. 3. Part IV of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph 14c(2)(a) is amended by inserting the following new subparagraph (ii) and renumbering existing subparagraphs (a)(ii) through (iv) as (a)(iii) through (v):

"(ii) Determination of lawfulness. The lawfulness of an order is a question of law to be determined by the military judge."

(b) Paragraph 16(c)(1)(a) is amended by replacing the word "Transportation" with the words "Homeland Security".

(c) Paragraph 35a is amended to read as follows:

"a. Text.

(a) Any person subject to this chapter who—

(1) operates or physically controls any vehicle, aircraft, or vessel in a reckless or wanton manner or while impaired by a substance described in section 912a(b) of this title (Article 112a(b)), or

(2) operates or is in actual physical control of any vehicle, aircraft, or vessel while drunk or when the alcohol concentration in the person's blood or breath is equal to or exceeds the level prohibited under subsection (b), as shown by chemical analysis, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

(b)(1) For purposes of subsection (a), the applicable level of the alcohol concentration in a person's blood or breath is as follows:

(A) In the case of the operation or control of a vehicle, aircraft, or vessel in the United States, the level is the blood alcohol concentration prohibited under the law of the State in which the conduct occurred, except as may be provided under paragraph (b)(2) for conduct on a military installation that is in more than one State, or the prohibited alcohol concentration level specified in paragraph (b)(3).

(B) In the case of the operation or control of a vehicle, aircraft, or vessel outside the United States, the level is the blood alcohol concentration specified in paragraph (b)(3) or such lower level as the Secretary of Defense may by regulation prescribe.

(2) In the case of a military installation that is in more than one State, if those States have different levels for defining their prohibited blood alcohol concentrations under their respective State laws, the Secretary concerned for the installation may select one such level to apply uniformly on that installation.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (b)(1), the level of alcohol concentration prohibited in a person's blood is 0.10 grams or more of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood and with respect to alcohol concentration in a person's breath is 0.10 grams or more of alcohol per 210 liters of breath, as shown by chemical analysis."

(4) In this subsection, the term "United States" includes the District of Columbia, the

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, and the term “State” includes each of those jurisdictions.”

(d) Paragraph 35b(2)(c) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) the alcohol concentration level in the accused’s blood or breath, as shown by chemical analysis, was equal to or exceeded the applicable level provided in paragraph 35a above.”

(e) Paragraph 35f is amended as follows:

“In that _____ (personal jurisdiction data), did (at/on board—required), on or about _____ 20 _____, (in the motor pool area) (near the Officer’s Club) (at the intersection of _____ and _____) (while in the Gulf of Mexico) (while in flight over North America) physically control [a vehicle, to wit: (a truck) (a passenger car) (_____)] [an aircraft, to wit: (an AH-64 helicopter)(an F-14A fighter)(a KC-135 tanker) (_____)] [a vessel, to wit: (the aircraft carrier USS _____) (the Coast Guard Cutter _____)], [while drunk] [while impaired by _____] [while the alcohol concentration in his (blood)(breath) was, as shown by chemical analysis, equal to or exceeded (.10) (_____) grams of alcohol per (100 milliliters of blood) (210 liters of breath), which is the limit under (cite applicable State law) (cite applicable statute or regulation)] [in a (reckless) (wanton) manner by (attempting to pass another vehicle on a sharp curve) (by ordering that the aircraft be flown below the authorized altitude)] [and did thereby cause said (vehicle) (aircraft) (vessel) to (strike and) (injure _____)].”

(f) Paragraph 97 is amended by (1) inserting the following new subparagraph (b)(2) and renumbering the existing subparagraphs (b)(2) and (b)(3) as (b)(3) and (b)(4); (2) adding the words “and patronizing a prostitute” after the word “Prostitution” in subparagraph (e)(1); and (3) inserting the following new subparagraph (f)(2) and renumbering the existing subparagraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) as (f)(3) and (f)(4):

“(b)(2) *Patronizing a prostitute.*

(a) That the accused had sexual intercourse with another person not the accused’s spouse;

(b) That the accused compelled, induced, enticed, or procured such person to engage in an act of sexual intercourse in exchange for money or other compensation; and

(c) That this act was wrongful; and

(d) That, under the circumstances, the conduct of the accused was to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces or was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces.”

“(f)(2) *Patronizing a prostitute.*

In that _____ (personal jurisdiction data), did, (at/on board—location) (subject-matter jurisdiction data, if required), on or about _____ 20 _____, wrongfully (compel) (induce) (entice) (procure) _____, a person not his/her spouse, to engage in (an act) (acts) of sexual intercourse with the accused in exchange for (money) (_____).”

(g) Paragraph 109 is amended to read as follows:

“109. ARTICLE 134—(Threat or hoax designed or intended to cause panic or public fear)

a. *Text.* See paragraph 60.

b. *Elements.*

(1) *Threat.*

(a) That the accused communicated certain language;

(b) That the information communicated amounted to a threat;

(c) That the harm threatened was to be done by means of an explosive; weapon of mass destruction; biological or chemical agent, substance, or weapon; or hazardous material;

(d) That the communication was wrongful; and

(e) That, under the circumstances, the conduct of the accused was to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces or was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces.

(2) *Hoax.*

(a) That the accused communicated or conveyed certain information;

(b) That the information communicated or conveyed concerned an attempt being made or to be made by means of an explosive;

weapon of mass destruction; biological or chemical agent, substance, or weapon; or hazardous material, to unlawfully kill, injure, or intimidate a person or to unlawfully damage or destroy certain property;

(c) That the information communicated or conveyed by the accused was false and that the accused then knew it to be false;

(d) That the communication of the information by the accused was malicious; and

(e) That, under the circumstances, the conduct of the accused was to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces or was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces.

c. Explanation.

(1) *Threat.* A “threat” means an expressed present determination or intent to kill, injure, or intimidate a person or to damage or destroy certain property presently or in the future. Proof that the accused actually intended to kill, injure, intimidate, damage, or destroy is not required.

(2) *Explosive.* “Explosive” means gunpowder, powders used for blasting, all forms of high explosives, blasting materials, fuses (other than electrical circuit breakers), detonators, and other detonating agents, smokeless powders, any explosive bomb, grenade, missile, or similar device, and any incendiary bomb or grenade, fire bomb, or similar device, and any other explosive compound, mixture, or similar material.

(3) *Weapon of mass destruction.* A weapon of mass destruction means any device, explosive or otherwise, that is intended, or has the capability, to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through the release, dissemination, or impact of: toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors; a disease organism; or radiation or radioactivity.

(4) *Biological agent.* The term “biological agent” means any micro-organism (including bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiac, or protozoa), pathogen, or infectious substance, and any naturally occurring, bioengineered, or synthesized component of any such micro-organism, pathogen, or infectious substance, whatever its origin or method of production, that is capable of causing—

(a) death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human, an animal, a plant, or another living organism;

(b) deterioration of food, water, equipment, supplies, or materials of any kind; or

(c) deleterious alteration of the environment.

(5) *Chemical agent, substance, or weapon.* A chemical agent, substance, or weapon refers to a toxic chemical and its precursors or a munition or device, specifically designed to cause death or other harm through toxic properties of those chemicals that would be released as a result of the employment of such munition or device, and any equipment specifically designed for use directly in connection with the employment of such munitions or devices.

(6) *Hazardous material.* A substance or material (including explosive, radioactive material, etiologic agent, flammable or combustible liquid or solid, poison, oxidizing or corrosive material, and compressed gas, or mixture thereof) or a group or class of material designated as hazardous by the Secretary of Transportation.

(7) *Malicious.* A communication is “malicious” if the accused believed that the information would probably interfere with the peaceful use of the building, vehicle, aircraft, or other property concerned, or would cause fear or concern to one or more persons.

d. Lesser included offenses.

(1) *Threat*

(a) Article 134—communicating a threat

(b) Article 80—attempts

(c) Article 128—assault

(2) *Hoax.* Article 80—attempts

e. Maximum punishment. Dishonorable discharge, forfeitures of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 10 years.

f. Sample specifications.

(1) *Threat.*

In that _____ (personal jurisdiction data) did, (at/on board—location) on or about _____ 20____, wrongfully communicate certain information, to wit: _____, which language constituted a threat to harm a person or property by means of a(n) [explosive; weapon of mass destruction; biological agent, substance, or weapon; chemical agent, substance, or weapon; and/or (a) hazardous material(s)].

(2) *Hoax.*

In that _____ (personal jurisdiction data) did, (at/on board—location), on or about _____ 20 _____, maliciously (communicate) (convey) certain information concerning an attempt being made or to be made to unlawfully [(kill) (injure) (intimidate) _____] [(damage) (destroy) _____] by means of a(n) [explosive; weapon of mass destruction; biological agent, substance, or weapon; chemical agent, substance, or weapon; and/or (a) hazardous material(s)], to wit: _____, which information was false and which the accused then knew to be false.”

Sec. 4. Part V of the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph 1(h) is amended by redesignating existing paragraph 1(h) as 1(i) and inserting the following new paragraph 1(h):

“h. *Applicable standards.* Unless otherwise provided, the service regulations and procedures of the servicemember shall apply.”

(b) Paragraph 2(a) is amended by replacing the words “Unless otherwise” with the word “As”.

(c) Paragraph 2(a) is amended by inserting the following after the second sentence:

“Commander includes a commander of a joint command.”

(d) Paragraph 2(a) is amended by inserting the words “of a commander” in the third sentence after the words “the authority.”

Sec. 5. These amendments shall take effect 30 days from the date of this order.

(a) Nothing in these amendments shall be construed to make punishable any act done or omitted prior to the effective date of this order that was not punishable when done or omitted.

(b) Nothing in these amendments shall be construed to invalidate any nonjudicial punishment proceeding, restraint, investigation, referral of charges, trial in which arraignment occurred, or other action begun prior to the effective date of this order, and any such nonjudicial punishment proceeding, re-

straint, investigation, referral of charges, trial, or other action may proceed in the same manner and with the same effect as if these amendments had not been prescribed.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 14, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 17, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 18.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office

October 14, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2006–01

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Office

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108–447, as provided for in the Joint Resolution Making Continuing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–77), I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100–204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to New Orleans, LA, where, upon arrival, he met with Plaquemines Parish officials to discuss Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

In the evening, at Ralph Brennan's BACCO restaurant, the President and Mrs. Bush had a dinner meeting with Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Chief of Staff; and other officials to discuss Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

October 11

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Covington, LA. Later, they participated in a Habitat for Humanity building project.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Pass Christian, MS, where, upon arrival, they met with local school officials. Later, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, where he met with Jefferson Parish officials to discuss Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

October 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India to discuss recovery efforts following the earthquake in Pakistan on October 8. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Chancellor-elect Angela Merkel of Germany to congratulate her on her election victory. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland and his wife, Jolanta Kwasniewska.

Later in the afternoon, at DAR Constitution Hall, the President made remarks to Federal agency leadership and Senior Executive Service employees. Later, he returned to the White House.

October 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany.

Later in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzales of El Salvador and President Oscar Berger of Guatemala to discuss Tropical Storm Stan recovery efforts.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom, who was celebrating her 80th birthday.

October 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada. He then had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients.

Later in the morning, the President had a briefing on recovery efforts in response to the earthquake in Pakistan on October 8 and Tropical Storm Stan that struck Guatemala on October 2.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald L. Schlicher to be Ambassador to Cyprus.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alejandro Daniel Wolff to be U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, U.S. Deputy Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 9

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Assistance for Earthquake in Pakistan

Released October 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy

Released October 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released October 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1413

Fact sheet: The President Participates in a Video Teleconference With U.S. Troops

Released October 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 7 *

H.R. 3863 / Public Law 109–86
Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act

S. 1786 / Public Law 109–87
To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make emergency airport improvement project grants-in-aid under title 49, United States Code, for repairs and costs related to damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

S. 1858 / Public Law 109–88
Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005

Approved October 13

S. 1413 / Public Law 109–89
To redesignate the Crowne Plaza in Kingston, Jamaica as the Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza

* These Public Laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.